

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

2 This application is a continuation in part of and claims the benefit of the filing date of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/780,669 filed on January 7, 1997, ^{now patent # 6088455} and further claims the benefit of the filing dates of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/126,758 filed on March 29, 1999 and co-pending Application Serial No. 09/238,948 filed on January 27, 1999, which was a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/723,641 filed on October 3, 1996, now U.S. Patent 5,892,536, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Field of the Invention

10 The invention relates to systems and methods for processing programming signals, and more particularly, to systems and methods that allow for selecting, identifying, modifying and reproducing recorded programming signals.

Background of the Invention

Today, radio broadcast programming provides an important marketing tool for exposing the general public to commercially available musical recordings. To this end, each regional market typically contains a number of different radio stations, each of which provides programming for a select demographic segment of market. For example, each major regional market typically includes at least one radio station that broadcasts musical selections from Billboard Magazine's Top 40 Hits. Similarly, each regional market typically includes a classical music station that broadcasts musical selections from commercially available recordings of classical music.

Recording studios encourage and promote the broadcasting of musical selections from their studios by providing the radio stations with incentives, including free copies of recent recordings, sponsorships of contests, and local concerts, and other similar marketing techniques. Recording studios deem these promotions to be worthwhile in that marketing studies evidence that consumers purchase musical selections that are familiar to them. Accordingly, recording studios deem that the free distribution of their musical selections through radio broadcast